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CLIMATE CHANGE

2006 Corporate Governance and Climate Change: Making the Connection.

Douglas Cogan, CERES, March 2006

<http://www.ceres.org/pub/publication.php?pid=84>

BP and DuPont Receive Top Scores in First-Ever Ranking of 100 Global Companies on Climate Change Strategies. The report uses a "Climate Governance Checklist" to evaluate how major industrial corporations are addressing climate change in five broad areas: board oversight, management performance, public disclosure, greenhouse gas emissions accounting and strategic planning. The report took nine months to complete and uses data from securities filings, company reports, company websites, third-party questionnaires and direct company communications.

Combating Global Warming One Car at a Time: CO2 Emissions Labels for New Motor Vehicles.

Katherine Probst, Resources for the Future, March 2006

<http://www.rff.org/rff/News/Features/loader.cfm?url=/commonspot/security/getfile.cfm&PageID=21680>

As Americans become increasingly concerned about global warming, carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions labels on new cars could be an effective and relatively painless way to inform them that the cars they drive are a major source of CO2 and contribute to the buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Putting a CO2 emissions label on all new cars and light trucks would make this clear for all to see.

Season Creep : How Global Warming is Already Affecting the World Around Us. An Analysis of the Impact of Climate Change on Seasonal Cycles.

Jonathan Banks, March 2006

<http://www.cleartheair.org/documents/SeasonCreep.pdf>

Even though the full impact of global warming has yet to be felt, the world around us is already feeling the heat. According to the latest scientific studies reviewed for this paper, the planet is warming and higher temperatures are disrupting our very seasons and turning their key indicators upside down.

WASTES

Improving the Regulation and Management of Low-Activity Radioactive Wastes.

Committee on Improving Practices for Regulating and Managing Low-Activity

Radioactive Wastes, National Research Council, March 2006

<http://darwin.nap.edu/books/0309101425/html/>

“This report develops a vision of a risk-informed system for regulating and managing all types of low-activity waste in the United States. The framework for risk-informed decision making combines scientific risk assessment with public values and perceptions. The framework is implemented in a gradual or stepwise fashion—but always with regard to the hazardous properties of the waste in question and not to the enterprise that produced the waste.”

Managing Coal Combustion Residues in Mines.

Committee on Mine Placement of Coal Combustion Wastes, National Research Council, March 2006

<http://darwin.nap.edu/books/0309100496/html>

Burning coal in electric utility plants produces, in addition to power, residues that contain constituents which may be harmful to the environment. The management of large volumes of coal combustion residues (CCRs) is a challenge for utilities, because they must either place the CCRs in landfills, surface impoundments, or mines, or find alternative uses for the material. This study focuses on the placement of CCRs in active and abandoned coal mines and discusses a variety of steps that are involved in planning and managing the use of CCRs as minefills, including an integrated process of CCR characterization and site characterization, management and engineering design of placement activities, and design and implementation of monitoring to reduce the risk of contamination moving from the mine site to the ambient environment.

Yucca Mountain: Quality Assurance at DOE's Planned Nuclear Waste Repository Needs Increased Management Attention.

U.S. GAO, March 2006

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-313>

To meet the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's requirements, DOE established a quality assurance program for the Yucca Mountain project. The program establishes requirements that scientific, design, engineering, and other work, such as procurement and record keeping, is to be performed under controlled conditions that ensure quality and enable the work to be verified by others.

Leading the Way: Continued Opportunities for New State Appliance and Equipment Efficiency Standards.

American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) and the Appliance Standards Awareness Project (ASAP), March 2006

www.aceee.org/pubs/a062.htm

“Advances in technology keep yielding opportunities to cut energy waste,” said Steven Nadel, Executive Director of ACEEE and lead author of the report. “Standards that improve the energy efficiency of common consumer products and commercial equipment are a cornerstone of a sensible energy policy, for a state or for the nation.”

Since 2004, ten states (Arizona, California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Washington) have established new energy-saving standards covering between five and thirty products, most through new state legislation.

WATERS

The Quality of Our Nation's Waters. Pesticides in the Nation's Streams and Ground Water, 1992-2001.

Robert J. Gilliom, *et al*, U.S. Geological Survey, March 2006

<http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/2005/1291/pdf/circ1291.pdf>

“About 1 billion pounds of conventional pesticides are used each year in the United States to control weeds, insects, and other pests. The use of pesticides has resulted in a range of benefits, including increased food production and reduction of insect-borne disease, but also raises questions about possible adverse effects on the environment, including water quality. The National Water-Quality Assessment Program (NAWQA) assessment of pesticides provides the most comprehensive national-scale analysis to date of pesticide occurrence and concentrations in streams and ground water. NAWQA results show where, when, and why specific pesticides occur in streams and ground water across the Nation, and yield science-based implications for assessing and managing the quality of our water resources.”

ENERGY

Oil Shockwave. Oil Crisis Executive Simulation.

Securing America's Future Energy (SAFE) and the National Commission on Energy Policy (NCEP), March 2006

<http://www.energycommission.org/ewebeditpro/items/O82F6801.pdf>

Amid high global oil and U.S. gasoline prices, the report demonstrates that the United States is vulnerable to much more severe oil shocks should even relatively small amounts of oil be withdrawn from the global market due to terrorism, political unrest or additional natural disasters.

The report details the findings of Oil Shockwave, an oil crisis simulation conducted earlier this summer, which found that taking less than 4% of oil off the global market due to small incidents of political unrest and terrorism would cause prices to rise dramatically. It also showed that once an oil supply disruption occurs there are few short-term options for protecting the U.S. and global economy.

State Emissions Standards Scientifically Sound.

National Research Council, Board on Environmental Studies and Toxicology, March 2006

<http://newton.nap.edu/books/0309101514/html/>

California's emissions standards for vehicles and off-road equipment, which are generally tougher than those set by the federal government, are scientifically valid, according to this report. Continuing its pioneering role in setting emissions standards will help California curb persistent pollution and remain a proving ground for new emissions-control technologies.